Monthly Outlook Report for August 2004

1. **REPORTING UNIT**: **Pacific Northwest Area**

2. **DATE: 7/19/04**

3. **POTENTIAL FOR SERIOUS/CRITICAL FIRE PROBLEMS**

This Coming Month	**Below Normal**		**Normal**		**Above Normal**	**X**
This Coming Season	**Below Normal**		**Normal**		**Above Normal**	**X**

4. **Discussion**. August is typically the busiest fire month in the PNW. The most active areas in terms of acres are: C2 (central Oregon); E4 (NE Oregon) and E5 (SE Oregon). This year, these areas are showing more typical or "normal" fire severity conditions, and the greatest departure from average levels is being recorded west of the Cascades. This is significant for 3 reasons: These areas don't normally dry out until later in the season. They usually become a problem in late summer under east wind conditions. With the accelerated drying being recorded now, they can only become drier as the season progresses. Secondly, these are very tough areas for fire suppression due to the terrain and to both the continuity and density of heavy fuels. So, anytime fire danger becomes excessive west of the Cascades, it is a cause for concern. Lastly, the west sides are more heavily populated and feature many recreational and economic opportunities that are disrupted by large fires.
   To date, thunderstorms on both sides of the Cascades have been wet, giving initial attack resources an advantage that has been reflected in IA success. While this may not continue through August, it may indicate a recurring pattern for this season. A similar situation occurred in 1997. Central Washington continues to show the greatest potential for large fires due to long term drought and dry fuels. This area usually winds down in August in terms of acres, so it's possible the worst may be over in that area.

5. **DROUGHT CONDITIONS, PRECIPITATION, TEMPERATURE**

PSA	% of Avg Precip last 30 days	Short Term (Palmer) Drought	Long Term Drought - 36 months	Temp Forecast 30 Days	Precip Forecast 30 Days
W1	0-50%	Abnormally Dry	No	Above	No Forecast
W2	2-10%	Abnormally Dry	No	Above	No Forecast
W3	3-10%	No	No	Much Above	No Forecast
W4	0%	No	No	Much	No

				Above	Forecast
C1	0%	Severely Dry	Moderate Dry	Above	No Forecast
C2	7%	No	Mod-Very Dry	Much Above	Below
C3	>100%	Severely Dry	Extreme Dry	Much Above	Below
E1	0%	Severely Dry	Very Dry	Above	No Forecast
E2	0-7%	Severely Dry	Very Dry	Above	No Forecast
E3	0-7%	Severely Dry	Normal to Moderate Dry	Above	Below
E4	13-40%	No	Very Dry	Above	Below
E5	0-35%	Severely Dry	Moderate to Very Dry	Much Above	Much Below

6. Live Fuels:

PSA	Positive Departure	Negative Departure	Positive to Normal	Normal to Negative
W1				X
W2				X
W3				X
W4				X
C1		X		
C2		X		
C3				X
E1				X
E2				X
E3		X		
E4			X	
E5		X		

7. Dead Fuels:

PSA	Observed 100hr Fuel Moisture	Long-Term Avg This Date	100 threshold	Observed 1000hr Fuel Moisture	Long-Term Avg This Date	1000 threshold
W1	17	21	13%	24	29	18%
W2	26	20	13%	30	34	18%
W3	26	19	10%	29	31	18%
W4	17	17	10%	21	25	15%
C1	18	12	7%	18	17	12%
C2	17	13	7%	18	17	12%
C3	19	14	7%	19	18	12%
E1	19	14	6%	19	17	12%
E2	17	16	6%	17	19	12%
E3	13	11	6%	13	13	12%
E4	20	14	7%	23	19	12%
E5	17	12	5%	15	16	12%

Severity – Energy Release Component

RED = >90th Percentile

PSA	Observed	AVG – This Date	90th Percentile	97th Percentile
W1	37	22	32	39
W2	42	24	34	41
W3	44	33	43	50
W4	59	49	59	64
C1	67	60	70	75
C2	70	65	73	77
C3	71	60	72	76
E1	67	59	70	77
E2	63	57	72	77
E3	76	72	79	84
E4	64	64	75	81
E5	82	75	88	92

August Fire Occurrence 10 Year Median	PROBABILITY LightningEpisode with average date	PROBABILITY MultiEpisodes with average dates
641 Fires for 31,159 acres	**70%** **8/6**	**35%** **8/6, 8/12, 8/23**

Prognosis: West sides (W1, W2, W3, and W4) to continue abnormally dry through August, with a higher than average potential for large fires. Among Central and east predictive service areas, only C3 (Klamath Basin) will have higher than average potential. The other PSAs will continue to show average potential for large fires. Note that an average August in C2 has 111 fires for 34,756 acres; E4 has 165 fires for 50,831 acres and E5 has 54 fires for 46,469 acres.